

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 18-23 are pending, in which claims 18-19 are currently amended, and claims 20-23 are newly presented. No new matter is introduced (cf. ¶¶ 36-37 of the Specification).

The Office Action mailed October 8, 2004 objected to claims 18-19 for informalities¹ and rejected claims 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by *Kato et al.* (US 6,101,870).

This rejection is respectfully traversed because *Kato et al.* does not disclose the features of claims 18-19. For example, independent claim 18, as amended, recites “disconnecting a lead coupled to a valve pin disposed within the valve stem from a terminal of a battery”—a feature *Kato et al.* fails to disclose.

Kato et al. is directed to a tire air pressure monitoring device that uses the wheel or a coil wound around the stem as the transmitter antenna. Referring to FIG. 1 and accompanying text on cols. 2:60–3:35, *Kato et al.* discloses one embodiment of a tire air pressure monitoring transmitter 7 that includes a pressure detector 3, a signal processing circuit 4, and a battery 5. In order to use valve stem 10 as an antenna, *Kato et al.* states that a “snap ring 26 is fitted on the inner end of the valve stem 10” (col. 3:9-10) and that a “wire 6 is soldered to the snap ring 26 to connect the snap ring 26 to the matching circuit 4b” (col. 3:10-11). An alternative connection is that “the valve stem 10 may be directly connected to the matching circuit 4b by the wire 6” (col. 13-15; see also the Background, col. 1:49-52). In another embodiment, shown in FIG. 3, *Kato et al.* states that the “wire 6 connects the signal processing circuit 4 to the ring 12” (col. 66-67).

¹ The Office Action actually stated “claims 1-2,” but claims 1-2 had been canceled and only claims 18-19 are pending. This Response assumes that claims 18-19 were meant.

Kato et al., however, fails to disclose a valve pin at all, much less claim 18's feature of "disconnecting a lead coupled to a valve pin disposed within the valve stem from a terminal of a battery." Dependent claims 19-20 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 18 and are patentable on their merits.

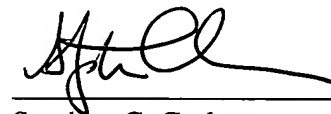
As for newly presented claims 21-23, *Kato et al.* clearly fails to disclose the feature of "disconnecting a valve pin disposed within the valve stem assembly from a lead coupled to a terminal of a battery" as recited in independent claim 21.

Therefore, the present application, as amended, overcomes the objections and rejections of record and is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at 703-425-8516 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

DITTHAVONG & CARLSON, P.C.

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Date



Stephen C. Carlson
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 39929

10507 Braddock Rd
Suite A
Fairfax, VA 22032
Tel. 703-425-8516
Fax. 703-425-8518